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Letter dated 24 April 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

In connection with the forthcoming meeting of the Security Council, to be held on 25 April 2012, I have the pleasure, on behalf of the States members of the Non-Aligned Movement, to bring to the attention of the Council the paragraphs reflecting the positions of the Movement incorporated in the sections on "Disarmament and international security", "Terrorism", "Trafficking in persons" and "Drug trafficking" of the Final Document of the XVI Ministerial Conference and Commemorative Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement held in Bali, Indonesia, from 23 to 27 May 2011 (S/2011/407, paras. 132-203, 204 and 205, 593-603 and 604-607, respectively).

On this occasion, the Movement reaffirms that the United Nations, its Charter and international law remain indispensable tools and central in the preservation and maintenance of international peace and security and the strengthening of international cooperation. The United Nations, which represents a well-founded international legitimacy, and thus multilateralism, remains the central multilateral forum for addressing the pressing global issues and challenges presently confronting all States, including the issues discussed at the aforementioned Security Council meeting.

The Non-Aligned Movement also stresses that the Security Council must fully observe all Charter provisions as well as all General Assembly resolutions which clarify its relationship with the latter organ and other principal organs. In this context, the Movement affirms that Article 24 of the Charter does not necessarily provide the Security Council with the competence to address issues which fall within the functions and powers of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, including in the areas of norm-setting, legislation, administrative and budgetary matters and establishing definitions, bearing in mind that the Assembly is primarily tasked with the progressive development of international law and its codification. The Movement further stresses that close cooperation and coordination among all principal organs is highly indispensable in order to enable the United Nations to remain relevant and capable of meeting the existing, new and emerging threats and challenges. The Movement stresses that Member States have conferred on the Security Council the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security pursuant to Article 24 (1) of the Charter and in carrying out its duties under this responsibility, the Council acts on their behalf.

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The Non-Aligned Movement would like to highlight the following positions:

- The Movement reaffirms that States have the sovereign right to secure their borders in accordance with international law. The Movement also emphasizes that respect for the principles of sovereign equality, political independence, territorial integrity of all States and non-intervention in matters that are essentially within their domestic jurisdiction should be upheld.

- The Movement remains deeply concerned over the illicit transfer, manufacture and circulation of small arms and light weapons and their excessive accumulation and uncontrolled spread in many regions of the world. The Movement recognizes the need to establish and maintain controls over private ownership of small arms. The Movement calls on all States, in particular major producing States, to ensure that the supply of small arms and light weapons is limited only to Governments or to entities duly authorized by Governments and to implement legal restrictions and prohibitions preventing the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons. The Movement encourages all initiatives by States to mobilize resources and expertise as well as to provide assistance to strengthen the full implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.

- The Movement also expresses its concern regarding the growing links between illicit trafficking in firearms, illicit drug trafficking and trafficking in persons, in the Sahel-Saharan region where hostage-taking, involving ransom payments, and terrorist acts are a threat to regional security.

- The Movement underlines the need to ensure that any action by the Security Council does not undermine the Charter of the United Nations, relevant multilateral treaties and other instruments, and international organizations established in this regard, or the role of the General Assembly. The Movement further cautions against the continuing practice of the Security Council to utilize its authority to define the legislative requirements for Member States in implementing Security Council decisions.

I trust that this contribution by the Non-Aligned Movement will guide the deliberations of the Security Council and that it will be duly taken into consideration in the formulation of any document to be adopted by the Security Council at the end of the meeting.

I kindly request that the present letter be circulated as a document of the Security Council and distributed in its current form to the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Maged A. **Abdelaziz**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative